Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 (Previously amended): A method for amplifying a cDNA comprising:
obtaining an mRNA;
reverse transcribing the mRNA into cDNA with reverse transcriptase without RNase H activity so that a cDNA-mRNA complex is formed;
degrading the mRNA from the cDNA-mRNA complex to form a linear cDNA;
ligating the ends of said linear cDNA to form a circular cDNA;
introducing first and second sequence specific primers to said circular cDNA; and
initiating a primer extension amplification reaction to increase copy number of said circular cDNA.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

D1

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said primer extension amplification reaction is a polymerase chain reaction.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said polymerase chain reaction is employed with Taq polymerase or other heat-resisted DNA polymerase.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said PCR is touchdown PCR.

Claim 6 (Previously amended): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
harvesting said amplified cDNA.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said ligase is T4 DNA ligase.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said primer is a degenerate primer.

Claim 9 (Previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said first and second primers are designed to hybridize to from about 4 to about 35 contiguous bases from a sequence known or suspected to be present in said circular cDNA.

Claim 10 (Previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said first primer comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 5' end of the circular cDNA.

Claim 11 (Previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein one of said primers comprises a 3'end of the same which is toward the 3' end of said circular cDNA.

Claim 12 (Previously amended): A method for amplifying a cDNA, including the 5' and 3' ends, comprising:
obtaining an mRNA;
contacting the mRNA with reverse transcriptase without RNase H so that a cDNA-mRNA complex is formed;
degrading the mRNA from the cDNA-mRNA complex to form a linear cDNA;
circularizing said linear cDNA;
contacting the circularized cDNA with first and second sequence specific primers; and
introducing a polymerase and a supply of nucleotide bases to said circularized cDNA so that an amplification reaction occurs, wherein said region of said cDNA outside of said first and second primers including the 3' and 5' ends of said cDNA is amplified.

D1 cont.

Claim 13 (Previously amended): The method of claim 12 wherein said ligase is T4 DNA ligase.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said primer is a degenerate primer.

Claim 15 (Previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said forward and reverse primers are designed to hybridize to from about 4 to about 35 contiguous bases from a sequence known or suspected to be present in said circular cDNA.

Claim 16 (Previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said one of said primers comprises a 3' end of the same which is toward the 5' end of the circular cDNA.

Claim 17 (Previously amended): The method of claim 1 wherein one of said primers comprises a 3'end of the same which is toward the 3' end of said circular cDNA.

Claims 18-25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Previously added): A method for amplifying a cDNA comprising:
obtaining an mRNA;
reverse transcribing the mRNA into cDNA with reverse transcriptase without RNase H activity so that a cDNA-mRNA complex is formed;
degrading the mRNA from the cDNA-mRNA complex to form a linear cDNA;
ligating the ends of said linear cDNA to form a circular cDNA;
introducing first and second sequence specific primers to said circular cDNA, wherein said primers are degenerate primers; and
initiating a primer extension amplification reaction to increase copy number of said circular cDNA.

D1 Cont.

Claim 27 (Previously added): A method for amplifying a cDNA comprising:
obtaining an mRNA;
reverse transcribing the mRNA into cDNA with reverse transcriptase without RNase H activity so that a cDNA-mRNA complex is formed;
degrading the mRNA from the cDNA-mRNA complex to form a linear cDNA;
ligating the ends of said circular cDNA to form a circular cDNA;
introducing first and second sequence specific primers to said circular cDNA, wherein said first and second primers are designed to hybridize to from about 4 to about 35 contiguous bases from a sequence known or suspected to be present in said circular cDNA; and
initiating a primer extension amplification reaction to increase copy number of said circular cDNA.